

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Services Center on
April 30, 2013 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact Carrie or Derek at Westfield City Services Center: communications@westfield.in.gov or (317) 804-3001 if you have any questions.

April 30, 2013

Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction of Public Works Director, Ken Alexander
- Bike to School Day Event, Melody Jones
- Q&A with Mayor Cook
- Discussion on weed control and enforcement in Westfield neighborhoods, Ryan Clark
- Conclude



I. Welcome

Jim Ake welcomed everyone and introduced himself. The room went around and introduced themselves one at a time.

II. Introduction of Public Works Director, Ken Alexander

Public Works Director, Ken Alexander was introduced. Ken began his duties as director on February 25, 2013, replacing Kurt Wanninger. Ken brings with him 16 years of experience in the construction industry encompassing experiences in real estate development, construction management, general contracting and program management. During his career, he has managed the construction of several high profile projects including the Discovery Communications' World Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD and most recently the Eskenazi Health (Wishard) Replacement Hospital in Indianapolis, IN. Ken has a B.S. in Construction Engineering Management from Purdue University.

Ken talked about the responsibilities of the Public Works Department and how the department will function after the transfer of the utilities to Citizen's Energy Group. His construction background will be a huge asset as work at Grand Park continues.

There were a few questions for Ken:

Q: Will inspectors be lost in the utility transfer

A: No. Staff will remain.

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Q: Are you aware of contaminants being dumped into detention ponds in Westfield subdivisions? Who should we contact if we see violators?

A: We are aware, but also make sure Police are aware. Catching the violator in the act is important. Be sure residents/businesses are aware of dos and don'ts of dumping chemicals/soaps into storm drains and ponds.

It was suggested placing a small article in the Your City Matters publication in order to make residents aware of violators.

Q: How will Public Works handle the downsizing of vehicles for plowing once the utility transfer goes through?

A: We will be downsizing some plow trucks. The department is still looking over its options – including outsourcing some plowing.

III. Bike to School Day Event, Melody Jones

Melody Jones, Parks Director, spoke on several events taking place over the next couple months. Below are the presentation slides, which include information presented by Melody.

Presentation slides: http://www.westfield.in.gov/egov/documents/1368034630_43658.pdf

Melody also received some questions from the group:

Q: Is there a plan in place for pedestrian crossing in front of schools?

A: Yes. There is a complete road plan. In the plan, accommodations are made for all pedestrian traffic. This was recently passed by Council. An alternate transportation plan is also included and inside that plan is a City-wide trails plan.

Q: What was the logic behind only one day of bike to school promotion? Shouldn't we always be promoting it?

A: Bike to School Day is meant to educate children and families about health and safety.

Melody also mentioned that the new Grand Guide programming brochure went out to residents. The new programming building will soon open in downtown Westfield. She encouraged the group to go online to www.westfield.in.gov/parks and fill out their parks and rec. survey.

IV. Q & A with Mayor Cook

Mayor Cook opened the floor for questions.

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Q: I noticed INDOT tore down the “Welcome to Historic Westfield” sign at Greyhound Pass and US31. What’s the vision?

A: New entry way signs are being designed now. There will also be, new

A: New entry way signs are being designed now. Additionally, new way finding signs will also be placed around the city.

Mayor then gave a quick update on US31. Says the portion south of 169th street is to be completed this year with the north section (between 169 and 191st) to be completed in 2015.

Q: Will the Oak Ridge and 161st roundabout happen this year?

A: No. It will be built next year due to a land acquisition issue. 156th and Spring Mill will also happen next year.

Q: Is the 161st street bridge still on schedule to begin this year?

A: Yes. Likely to begin in summer.

Q: Now that Mufflers and More building is gone, how is the City dealing with potential soil conditions?

A: The building lot will become a parking lot for downtown businesses and visitors. Soil pollution is a concern and an environmental group is taking care of any negative chemicals in the soil.

Q: When is the bulk trash event? Should we have it more than once a year?

A: June 29th. Potentially. The city pays to have Ray’s come out and collect the bulk items. The City would have to weigh cost over needs.

Mayor suggested that we put a poll out on our Facebook page to gauge public interest in adding another bulk trash day to the calendar.

Q: Do the schools use Ray’s for trash like the City? Is it all under one contract?

A: No. Schools use Republic Trash Service

It was also noted that the “Your City Matters” newsletter would be expanding to a larger format to include more information.

IV. Discussion on weed control and enforcement in Westfield neighborhoods,
Ryan Clark

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Ryan Clark from the City's Economic and Community Development Departments spoke on the current status of weed control and enforcement in the City of Westfield. Information handed out can be accessed here: http://www.westfield.in.gov/egov/documents/1368034699_52867.pdf

Ryan says a lot of times, foreclosed properties in Westfield are violators of the City's weed and tall grass ordinance.

A few questions came up to Ryan:

Q: What is the weed control process for foreclosures?

A: The City places a notice on the door, then contacts the property owner on file – which can sometimes pose and issue if the owner is a large bank.

Q: How does the ordinance apply to undeveloped property?

A: It still applies if it's in the City limits unless the property is zoned for agriculture

Q: What if you wanted to create a designated wildlife preserve?

A: A homeowner or developer would need to apply before building

Q: Should nature areas be declared by neighborhood or property owner?

A: Yes

V. Conclude

The meeting concluded with everyone agreeing to hold a cookout/tour at the Public Safety Facility located at 17535 Dartown Road. The meeting will begin at 6pm!

The next WeCAN meeting is on **Tuesday, May 28th, at 6pm** at the Westfield Public Safety Building located at 17535 Dartown Road.

If you have any topic suggestions or issues that you have questions on, please don't hesitate to contact us at communications@westfield.in.gov. For updated announcements and information from the past meetings, please visit the WeCAN Website: www.westfield.in.gov – under "Community" tab